

States and around the globe to compete to become the Champion of the Atlantic Coast. The event has steadily grown over the years and now brings a host of festivities to the Virginia Beach oceanfront, such as live music, skating, and beach volleyball.

It is an honor to celebrate the long-running success of the ECSC, a staple in our Coastal Virginia community. I am grateful for the ECSC's significant contributions to our local economy and culture, and I wish the competition and all its participants the best of luck in this year's event.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
SPEERS BOROUGH MAYOR WIL-
LIAM LEE

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Speers Borough Mayor William "Bill" Lee, who passed away on December 18, 2020, at the age of 75. As a lifetime resident of the Mon-Valley, Bill will always be remembered for his commitment to his community, region, and country.

After graduating from California State College in 1967, Bill's amiability led him to a career in sales and in 1980, he joined his cousins at Lee Supply Company. With their rollout of HDPE pipe in the 1970s, Lee Supply Co. had become one of the largest suppliers of pipe and pumping systems for the eastern United States. As environmental sales manager, he was fondly known as "Land Fill Bill." He retired in 2013 but remained active to mentor the next generation and represent Lee Supply Co. at trade shows.

Throughout his life, Mayor Lee's dedication to his community was clear. He served on the Mon Valley Progress Council, Charleroi Area Board of Education, the Water Authority Board of Charleroi and as chairman of the Charleroi Regional Police Department. Most remarkably, Bill served as Speers Borough mayor for more than twenty years.

Beyond public service, Bill was a pillar of his community. At St. Andrew of the Apostle, his booming voice was the first to lead parishioners in song. As the president of the Mon Valley Ancient Order of Hibernians, he sang his way through 40 years at the Pittsburgh St. Patrick Day parades, receiving many awards for singing "Molly Malone." Bill was also well known for his impromptu but enthusiastic renditions of "God Bless America." As a Meals on Wheels delivery man, he treated everyone with dignity and made their week brighter.

Madam Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I recognize the loss of Mayor William "Bill" Lee. Bill's outstanding legacy of service will have a lasting impact and he will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and community.

COMMEMORATING 56TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE VOTING RIGHTS
ACT OF 1965

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today not just to commemorate the landmark achievement of 56 years ago but to inform our colleagues and the nation of the need to redouble and rededicate our efforts to the work that remains to be done to protect the right of all Americans to vote free from discrimination and the injustices that prevent them from exercising this most fundamental right of citizenship.

On August 6, 1965, in the rotunda of the Capitol and in the presence of such luminaries as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rev. Ralph Abernathy of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Roy Wilkins of the NAACP; Whitney Young of the National Urban League; James Foreman of the Congress of Racial Equality; A. Philip Randolph of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; John Lewis of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee; Senators Robert Kennedy, Hubert Humphrey, and Everett Dirksen; President Johnson addressed the nation before signing the Voting Rights Act:

"The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men."

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was critical to preventing brazen voter discrimination violations that historically left millions of African Americans disenfranchised. In 1940, for example, there were less than 30,000 African Americans registered to vote in Texas and only about 3 percent of African Americans living in the south were registered to vote. Poll taxes, literacy tests, and threats of violence were the major causes of these racially discriminatory results. After passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, which prohibited these discriminatory practices, registration and electoral participation steadily increased to the point that by 2012, more than 1.2 million African Americans living in Texas were registered to vote.

In 1964, the year before the Voting Rights Act became law, there were approximately 300 African Americans in public office, including just three in Congress. Few, if any, African Americans held elective office anywhere in the south. Because of the Voting Rights Act, today there are more than 9,100 black elected officials, including 46 members of Congress, the largest number ever. Because of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on this day 53 years ago, I stand before you as the first African American woman Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

Madam Speaker, the Voting Rights Act opened the political process for many of the approximately 6,000 Hispanic public officials that have been elected and appointed nationwide, including more than 275 at the state or federal level, 32 of whom serve in Congress. Native Americans, Asians, and others who have historically encountered harsh barriers to full political participation also have benefited

greatly. The crown jewel of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is Section 5, which requires that states and localities with a chronic record of discrimination in voting practices secure federal approval before making any changes to voting processes. Section 5 protects minority voting rights where voter discrimination has historically been the worst.

Since 1982, Section 5 has stopped more than 1,000 discriminatory voting changes in their tracks, including 107 discriminatory changes right here in Texas. And it is a source of eternal pride to all of us in Houston that in pursuit of extending the full measure of citizenship to all Americans, in 1975 Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, who also represented this historic 18th Congressional District of Texas, introduced, and the Congress adopted, what are now Sections 4(f)(3) and 4(f)(4) of the Voting Rights Act, which extended the protections of Section 4(a) and Section 5 to language minorities. During the floor debate on the 1975 reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act, Congresswoman Jordan explained why this reform was needed:

"There are Mexican-American people in the State of Texas who have been denied the right to vote; who have been impeded in their efforts to register and vote; who have not had encouragement from those election officials because they are brown people.

"So, the state of Texas, if we approve this measure, would be brought within the coverage of this Act for the first time."

When it comes to extending and protecting the precious right to vote, the Lone Star State, the home state of Lyndon Johnson and Barbara Jordan, can be the leading state in the Union, one that sets the example for the nation. But to realize that future, we must turn from and not return to the dark days of the past. We must remain ever vigilant and oppose all schemes that will abridge or dilute the precious right to vote. Madam Speaker, I am here today to remind the nation that the right to vote, that "powerful instrument that can break down the walls of injustice," is facing grave threats.

The threat stems from the decision issued in June 2013 by the Supreme Court in *Shelby County v. Holder*, 570 U.S. 193 (2013), which invalidated Section 4(b) of the VRA, and paralyzed the application of the VRA's Section 5 preclearance requirements. According to the Supreme Court majority, the reason for striking down Section 4(b) was that "times change." Now, the Court was right; times have changed. But what the Court did not fully appreciate is that the positive changes it cited are due almost entirely to the existence and vigorous enforcement of the Voting Rights Act. And that is why the Voting Rights Act is still needed. Let me put it this way: in the same way that the vaccine invented by Dr. Jonas Salk in 1953 eradicated the crippling effects but did not eliminate the cause of polio, the Voting Rights Act succeeded in stymieing the practices that resulted in the wholesale disenfranchisement of African Americans and language minorities but did eliminate them entirely.

The Voting Rights Act is needed as much today to prevent another epidemic of voting disenfranchisement as Dr. Salk's vaccine is still needed to prevent another polio epidemic. However, officials in some states, notably Texas and North Carolina, seemed to regard the *Shelby* decision as a green light and

rushed to implement election laws, policies, and practices that could never pass muster under the Section 5 preclearance regime. My constituents remember very well the Voter ID law passed in Texas in 2011, which required every registered voter to present a valid government-issued photo ID on the day of polling in order to vote. The Justice Department blocked the law in March of 2012, and it was Section 5 that prohibited it from going into effect. At least it did until the Shelby decision, because on the very same day that Shelby was decided officials in Texas announced they would immediately implement the Photo ID law, and other election laws, policies, and practices that could never pass muster under the Section 5 preclearance regime.

The Texas Photo ID law was challenged in federal court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit upheld the decision of U.S. District Court Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos that Texas' strict voter identification law discriminated against Blacks and Hispanics and violated Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. Madam Speaker, protecting voting rights and combating voter suppression schemes are two of the critical challenges facing our great democracy. Without safeguards to ensure that all citizens have equal access to the polls, more injustices are likely to occur and the voices of millions silenced. Those of us who cherish the right to vote justifiably are skeptical of Voter ID laws because we understand how these laws, like poll taxes and literacy tests, can be used to impede or negate the ability of seniors, racial and language minorities, and young people to cast their votes. Consider the demographic groups who lack a government issued ID:

- African Americans: 25 percent;
- Asian Americans: 20 percent;
- Hispanic Americans: 19 percent;
- young people, aged 18 through 24: 18 percent;
- persons with incomes less than \$35,000: 15 percent;

And there are other ways abridging or suppressing the right to vote, including:

- Curtailing or eliminating early voting;
- ending same-day registration;
- not counting provisional ballots cast in the wrong precinct on Election Day will not count;
- eliminating adolescent pre-registration;
- shortening poll hours.

Lessening the standards governing voter challenges thus allowing self-proclaimed "ballot security vigilantes" like the King Street Patriots to cause trouble at the polls.

Madam Speaker, on this day, the 56th anniversary of the landmark Voting Rights Act signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on August 6, 1965, I call upon the leadership of Congress in both chambers to bring to a vote legislation intended to protect the right to vote of all Americans.

Specifically, I call for the passage of H.R. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, of which I am an original co-sponsor, which repairs the damage done to the Voting Rights Act by the Supreme Court's Shelby decision. This legislation provides even greater federal oversight of jurisdictions which have a history of voter suppression and protects vulnerable communities from discriminatory voting practices. Madam Speaker, before concluding there is one other point I would like to stress.

In his address to the nation before signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965, President Johnson said:

"Presidents and Congresses, laws and lawsuits can open the doors to the polling places and open the doors to the wondrous rewards which await the wise use of the ballot.

"But only the individual Negro, and all others who have been denied the right to vote, can really walk through those doors, and can use that right, and can transform the vote into an instrument of justice and fulfillment."

In other words, political power, and the justice, opportunity, inclusion, and fulfillment it provides, comes not from the right to vote but in the exercise of that right. And that means it is the civic obligation of every citizen to both register and vote in every election, state and local as well as federal. Because if we can register and vote, but fail to do so, we are guilty of voluntary voter suppression, the most effective method of disenfranchisement ever devised. And in recent years, Americans have not been doing a very good job of exercising our civic responsibility to register, vote, and make their voices heard.

Madam Speaker, for millions of Americans, the right to vote protected by the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is sacred treasure, earned by the sweat and toil and tears and blood of ordinary Americans who showed the world it was possible to accomplish extraordinary things. So on this 56th anniversary of that landmark law, let us rededicate ourselves to honoring those who won for us this precious right by remaining vigilant and fighting against both the efforts of others to abridge or suppress the right to vote and our own apathy in exercising this sacred right.

IN RECOGNITION OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS (RETIRED) JOSEPH FRENCHMAN KYLES

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary leader, soldier, veteran, and dedicated civil servant, SFC (Ret.) Joseph F. Kyles, who most recently retired from an impressive career with the United States Postal Service spanning almost three decades. He was honored at a retirement event on Saturday, August 7, 2021, at 6 p.m. at the Columbus Civic Center.

Joseph Frenchman Kyles was born in Sampson, Alabama on July 26, 1950, to the union of Nathaniel and Corine Kyles as the oldest of seven children. He is the loving husband of Minister Nila Kyles, the father of four children, and the grandfather of five grandchildren.

In 1972, Joseph Kyles answered the call to serve his nation and joined the United States Army. During his distinguished 20-year career in the U.S. Army, he became a non-commissioned officer retiring at the rank of Sergeant First Class. During his Army career, he served at Fort Benning in the Harmony Church area (specializing in Engineering, Weapon Night Firing, Leadership Training, and Tactical Training Maneuvers) and completed various overseas duties and assignments before retiring in 1992. To further hone his skills, he attended Columbus Technical College to obtain a degree in Engineering, Leadership, and Tactics Training.

Following his retirement from the U.S. Army, SFC (Ret.) Kyles built quite an impressive public service career with the United States Postal Service (USPS), beginning in 1992, when he started as a mail clerk. Over the span of 29 years, he served in several other capacities with USPS including mail handler, mail carrier, and mail truck driver.

Also, following his military service, he continued to serve his community and make an impact in the lives of others. His contributions include serving and financially supporting youth through Little League Football and Softball; Lonnie Jackson Academy Tutorial program; South Columbus Coalition; South Columbus Exchange Club; Youth of the Year program; and The House Of Refuge Ministry with his wife and son, Darian Hall, who is the pastor. He has also served as mentor and financial supporter for his fellow Veterans by assisting and transporting veterans to and from appointments, helping them acquire benefits and receive medical supplies for life endurance following their military service.

Douglas Adams once said that "To give real service you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money, and that is sincerity and integrity." SFC (Ret.) Joseph F. Kyles has demonstrated through his career and life, outstanding achievement, service, and public distinction. Our community, our state, and our nation are better because of him. In honor of his commendable accomplishments and years of service, B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor of Columbus, Georgia, signed a proclamation declaring August 7, 2021 as "Joseph Frenchman Kyles Day".

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 730,000 residents of the Second Congressional District in honoring and commending SFC (Ret.) Joseph Frenchman Kyles for his outstanding service to his nation, community, and humankind as well as upon the occasion of his retirement from the United States Postal Service. We extend our best wishes to him as he begins a new chapter in his life.

HONORING THE BIG RED BARREL PROJECT

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the tenth anniversary of the Big Red Barrel Project, founded in Livingston County.

On Good Friday in 2011, two local residents, Joe Carney and Terry Murray, struck up a conversation with then-Under Sheriff Mike Murphy. The three men were attending a biannual DEA drug takeback event and agreed that safe disposal of prescription drugs should happen every day—not just every two years.

What began with that conversation turned into the original Big Red Barrel, a metal dropbox at the Michigan State Police Post in Brighton where folks could safely dispose of their unused medications. Today, there are more than 75 Big Red Barrels all over the state.